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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9095
INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHUJA/AMEMBASSY ABUJA PRIORITY 8907
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 0792
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY 0080
RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY 0422
RUEHCD/AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ PRIORITY 0401
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY 0400
RUEHSO/AMCONSUL SAO PAULO PRIORITY 0390
RULSDMK/DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAHLC/DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUFOADA/JAC MOLESWORTH AFB UK PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LAGOS 000442

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STATE FOR AF/W, INR/AA, DS/IP/AF, DS/ICI/PII, DS/DSS/OSAC,
CA/OCS/ACS/AF FOR MESARITI
ZAGREB FOR AMBASSADOR BRADTKE
WARSAW FOR LISA PIASCIK
CIUDAD JUAREZ FOR DONNA BLAIR
OSLO FOR HELENA SCHRADER
ISTANBUL FOR TASHAWNA SMITH
SAO PAULO FOR ANDREW WITHERSPOON
DOE FOR GPERSON, CAROLYN GAY
TREASURY FOR ASEVERENS, SRENENDER, DFIELDS
COMMERCE FOR KBURRESS
STATE PASS USTR FOR ASST USTR FLISER
STATE PASS TRANSPORTATION FOR MARAD
STATE PASS OPIC FOR ZHAN AND MSTUCKART
STATE PASS TDA FOR NCABOT
STATE PASS EXIM FOR JRICHTER
STATE PASS USAID FOR GWEYNAND AND SLAWAETZ

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/11/2017

TAGS: ASEC CASC EPET PGOV PREL KDEM NI

SUBJECT: SITREP 31: 3 AMCITS REMAIN HOSTAGE; GOVERNOR
PREDICTS JUNE 11 RELEASE

REF: A. LAGOS 437

1B. LAGOS 419
1C. LAGOS 427

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Classified By: Consul Alan B. C. Latimer for reasons 1.4 (B) and (D)

11. (C) American citizens Bobbie Tyner, Shane McMorris and Richard Moore, four British nationals, one South African, one Filipino and one Nigerian national kidnapped offshore Bayelsa State on May 25 remain hostage. On June 11, TransCoastal (TCO) reported there has been "no real change" to the situation. Company representatives met with Bayelsa Governor Timipre Sylva on June 10. Although TCO has not had direct contact with the hostages since June 3 (Ref B), the company's hired emissary reported they were unharmed. Company representatives said they were prepared for an imminent release but did not share release plan details.

12. (C) Governor Sylva told the Acting Consul General he expected all ten hostages, plus British national Jeff Treen

who was kidnapped May 4 off the shore of Bayelsa State (Ref C), to be released to him in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, on June 11. Sylva said he was working with TransCoastal (TCO) on the release and that he was in direct communication with the militants. He did not specify the terms of negotiation. The Governor did not foresee complications with the release but commented one helicopter would not accommodate all the individuals at one time. (Note: We suspect Sylva was referring to a helicopter transfer to Lagos from Yenagoa. End Note.)

¶3. (SBU) Tamuno Godswill and Oyinye Alaebi, purportedly with the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), issued a June 11 press release stating all foreign nationals in MEND's custody would be released to the governors of Bayelsa and Rivers states that day. The statement claims the hostages would be released on humanitarian grounds but warned kidnappings would continue if Yar'Adua's administration does not release jailed militant leader Asari Dokubo and former governor of Bayelsa State, Diepreye Alamieyeseigha. The release further demanded Shell pay Bayelsa State communities USD 1.5 billion "as compensation for environmental degradation and pollutions." Lastly, the MEND statement demanded the immediate and unconditional demilitarization of Ijaw land in the Niger Delta. (Note: This press release does not list British national Jeff Treen as being held by MEND. End Note.)

¶4. (C) Comment: TCO has not provided or discussed a release plan--their nonchalance on this issue may suggest they are prepared to "wing it." We are now aware of three individuals ostensibly negotiating the release: the company's hired emissary, Dr. Godknows Igali (Special Advisor to the President on the Niger Delta), and Governor Sylva. It is not clear who is taking the lead, although we suspect their efforts are likely being coordinated. End Comment.

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